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domination in the captaincy general of Chile is next described. Chapter 9, which deals with the reorganization of the viceroyalty of La Plata by the ordinances issued in 1782 and 1802, is in considerable part taken from the author's earlier volume. In a chapter concerning the awakening interest in Spanish South America in science and politics, the author interestingly describes the establishment of literary journals in Quito, Bogotá, and Lima; he sketches the botanical researches of José Celestino Mutis in the viceroyalty of New Granada, and discusses the dissemination of French revolutionary philosophy in that region by Antonio Nariño. A small amount of space is occupied with a description of conditions in Lima and Santiago at the end of the eighteenth century. A larger space is taken up with the revolts against Spain in the captaincy general of Venezuela in the last decade of the eighteenth century. In the same chapter a description is given of the filibustering expedition which Francisco de Miranda led from New York City against Venezuela in 1806. An account of the British capture and loss of Buenos Aires is based upon the account in *South America on the eve of emancipation*. Some material is presented in the last chapter about conditions in Peru and Chile at the opening of the nineteenth century.

The volume is written in a lucid and, in general, an interesting style. It has, however, no bibliography, as such; although it is equipped with footnotes, they do not mention some important titles; and sufficient care has not been taken in reading the proof. In spite of its shortcomings, this book is a useful addition to the small number of volumes in English that deal with the later decades of South American colonial history.

WILLIAM SPENCE ROBERTSON

John Marshall and the constitution. A chronicle of the supreme court. By Edward S. Corwin. [The chronicles of America. Edited by Allen Johnson under the supervision of the committee on publications of the Yale university council] (New Haven: Yale university press, 1919. 242 p. 3.50)

Until quite recently John Marshall has too exclusively been the subject of bar association eulogies and too seldom the object of scientific historical scholarship. This little volume performs, therefore, a highly useful service in giving the reader not only a vivid picture of Marshall as a man, but also an entirely new impression of his statemanship and his place in American political life.

Professor Corwin makes it clear at the outset that at the time of Marshall's accession to the bench the supreme court had gained no hold upon the confidence or the imagination of the country, had become the subject of a bitter partisan wrangle, and was above all lacking in political leadership. At many points in the book the author reiterates his belief that

Marshall consciously supplied this political leadership and not only seized upon but actually created opportunities for announcing his constitutional doctrines. This is clearly brought out in the treatment of "Jefferson's war on the judiciary," in the course of which *Marbury v. Madison* is discussed and Marshall's famous decision is characterized as "a political coup of the first magnitude." In his discussion of the Burr trial Professor Corwin criticizes Marshall's doctrine that there can be no such thing as constructive treason against the United States and suggests that in reality the recent espionage act "scraps Marshall's doctrine pretty completely." The reader finds a clear discussion of *McCulloch v. Maryland*, as well as of the leading cases under the contract clause of the constitution. The frequently maligned decision in the Dartmouth college case is defended as a useful forerunner of the "modern rule of reason" as a check upon arbitrary legislative power. A chapter on "The menace of state rights" throws interesting light upon the bitter attacks directed against the supreme court by state legislatures and by members of congress as a result of Marshall's nationalistic decisions. A brief description is given of Marshall's personal associations with friends and neighbors and an "epilogue" furnishes an appraisal of his work in the light of the subsequent development of our constitutional law.

Professor Corwin's treatment is critical and philosophical. The book has very high literary merit, is adequately indexed, and contains a brief critical bibliographical note.

ROBERT EUGENE CUSHMAN

On the Ohio. By H. Bennett Abdy. (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1919. 300 p. \$2.50)

This book is a description of a steamboat journey from St. Louis to Pittsburgh by three western artists bent on securing sketches of the river and of the river towns. Traveling leisurely and stopping often, they luxuriated in the intermittent life of the levees, in languid villages with somnolent streets, and in the picturesque steamboat types. All these the author describes as one who loves his work. The illustrations of the book, which are good, are from sketches made on the trip.

The historical material in this book consists of the comments by the author. Only a few typical ones can be given. Louisville, says Mr. Abdy, probably came into existence as a "portage," which is a very logical view to take of it if, as Mr. Abdy does, we visualize the rather mild-mannered rapids there as "falls." At Maysville the great feud trials were held and a Kentucky governor was shot from ambush. This statement would indicate a mortality among Kentucky governors hitherto unsuspected. Frankfort has always been accorded the exclusive honors in gubernatorial extinction. On Blennerhassett island Hamilton and